

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 2nd, 2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's amendment and arguments (see pages 6-8), filed September 2nd, 2009, have overcome the prior art rejections of Greivenkamp (USPN 4,575,193) and Padgett et al. (USPN 5,781,283). These prior art rejections have been withdrawn.

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-16, and 18-20 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an imaging spectrometer wherein the imager comprises at least three image replication stages in optical series, each comprising a Wollaston prism, and wherein light forming each spectral image passes through the Wollaston prism of each image replication stage, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1.

As to claim 20, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an imaging spectrometer wherein the imaging means comprises at least three image replication stages in optical series, each comprising a Wollaston prism, and wherein light forming each spectral image passes through the Wollaston prism of each image replication stage, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 20.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kara E Geisel whose telephone number is **571 272 2416**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley, Jr. can be reached on **571 272 2800 ext. 77**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571 273 8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**/Kara E Geisel/
Primary Examiner,
Art Unit 2877**

October 19, 2009